Raising of Manipur Regiment

2167. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of raising of 'Manipur Regiment' in Indian Army Stands; and

(b) how long it will take to materialise the demand into reality?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to raise a separate Manipur Regiment in the Indian Army. The policy of the Government is not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indians have representation.

Precautions to contain air crashes

2168. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Versova-based mother of late Flt-Lt Abhijit Gadgil, who died in MIG-21 air-crash in September, 2001, has set "The Abhijit Air Safety Foundation", seeking to unite parents of over 100 dead fighter pilots of MiG-21 crashes, for seeking rational explanation on continuing MiG crashes; and

(b) if so, whether adequate safety precautions exist to contain this continuing trend of air crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always afoot in Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety.

Pensionary benefits to families of deceased IL-38 Naval Officers

2169. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the families of twelve naval officers and men killed in mid-air collision accident of two naval planes in Goa have

been denied pensionary and other benefits fixed for those who died on actual duty;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to honour those brave naval officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Families of the twelve personnel killed in mid-air collision accident of two naval planes in Goa have been sanctioned payment of *Ex-Gratia*, special family pension and death gratuity after adjusting for Government dues wherever necessary and as per court directions.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are established procedures for honouring brave personnel of Armed Forces. No separate action is being taken in the case of the twelve deceased personnel.

Extension of boundary of Ammunition Depots at Hatiali, Dibrugarh, Assam

2170. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for extension of boundary of Ammunition Depots at Hatiali of Chabua Revenue Circle of Dibrugarh District, Assam is being finalised by Defence authorities;

(b) if so, total area to be extended and detailed status of the land proposed for extension indicating the date of Gazette Notification made for the purpose; and

(c) village-wise total number of families inhabited in the said notified area including institutions and commercial establishements?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of the reply at (a) above the question do not arise.